

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /114 W
----- 032541

R 231330Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8773
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL GEORGETOWN 1258

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT CONTESTS LEGALITY OF
GUYANESE ELECTION

1. ON AUGUST 20, OPPOSITION PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM) FILED ELECTION PETITION TO CONTEST LEGALITY OF JULY 16 ELECTION. PDM, WHICH FAILED TO WIN SEAT IN ELECTION, IS ASKING HIGH COURT TO FIND GOVT COMMITTED CORRUPT PRACTICES AND VIOLATED ELECTION LAWS. GUYANA CONSTITUTION GIVES HIGH COURT POWER TO DETERMINE WHETHER "EITHER GENERALLY OR IN ANY PARTICULAR PLACE AN ELECTION HAS BEEN LAWFULLY CONDUCTED" (ART 71). IT IS UNCLEAR FROM CONSTITUTION WHAT RE COURSE COURT HAS IF IT FINDS ELECTION ILLEGAL. DATE FOR OPENING OF HEARING HAS NOT BEEN SET.

2. COMMENT: PAST CASES INVOLVING ALLEGED ELECTORAL FRAUD BY GOVT IN DECEMBER 1968 AND JUNE 1973 CONCERNED POSTAL VOTING, REGISTRATION PRACTICES, AND OVERSEAS VOTING. PETITIONS WERE FILED BEFORE ELECTIONS TOOK PLACE AND COURT THEREFORE RULED CONFIDENTIAL

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IT LACKED JURISDICTION. PDM'S PETITION, FILED AFTER ELECTION,

SEEMS WITHIN COURT JURISDICTION. HOWEVER, CHANCES FOR SUCCESSFUL RULING FOR PDM ARE ALMOST ZERO. THINKING OF MEMBERS OF HIGH JUDICIARY BELIEVED TO BE TOO MUCH IN LINE WITH RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) FOR ELECTION TO BE FOUND ILLEGAL. PNC, WHICH BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN EXTENSIVE STEPS TO FIX ELECTION, UNLIKELY TO ALLOW ITS WORK TO BE UNDONE BY COURT.

SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GEORGE01258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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